

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A method for providing unconscious capture archiving of  
2 documents in an automated office environment in which electronic documents are  
3 transferred over a network coupling at least one input device and at least one document  
4 management workstation having at least one database disposed to receive electronic  
5 copies of said documents for archiving, the method comprising:  
6                   receiving an electronic document image data being transmitted over the  
7 network in response to the electronic document being scanned by said at least one input  
8 device in response to a single user input command;  
9                   determining at least one meta data index from said electronic document;  
10 and  
11                   causing said image data to be stored in the at least one database along with  
12 said meta data index to perform the unconscious capture archiving, wherein the  
13 aforementioned steps are carried out without further input from the user notwithstanding  
14 the single user input command, and the aforementioned steps capture electronic document  
15 images of documents scanned and transferred over the network.

1                   2.     The method of claim 1 wherein said meta data index further  
2 comprises at least one selected from: a source device type, a creation time of said  
3 electronic representation, or a network address.

1                   3.     The method of claim 1 wherein said meta data index further  
2 comprises at least one selected from: at least one access permission, a direction of transit,  
3 a destination address of a machine on said network, a page size, a page orientation, a page  
4 transformation.

1                   4.     The method of claim 3 wherein said page transformation further  
2 comprises at least one selected from: placing at least two pages side-by-side in reduced  
3 form, printing pages on two sides of a page, rotating a page about an angle, reducing a  
4 page, enlarging a page, altering a scanning resolution of a page, or adding a header or a  
5 trailer to a page.

1                   5.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2           computing said meta data index from said document.

1           6.       The method of claim 5 wherein said computing said meta data  
2 index from said document further comprises at least one of:

3                   computing a page size, computing an orientation, or computing a page  
4 transformation.

1           7.       A system for providing unconscious capture archiving of  
2 documents, said system comprising:

3                   a computer having a long-term storage medium; and

4                   a network interconnecting the computer with devices that transfer image  
5 data onto the network via print or copy commands, said image data representing  
6 documents, and relay each one of said image data to be archived by the computer for  
7 storage on the long-term storage medium along with at least one meta data index in  
8 response to a single user input command;

9                   wherein the image data to be stored in the long-term storage medium is  
10 relayed to the computer without further input from the user notwithstanding the single  
11 user input command, and the image data to be stored in said long-term storage medium is  
12 captured from documents being copied or printed without interruption of the copy or the  
13 print commands respectively.

1           8.       The system of claim 7 wherein said meta data index further  
2 comprises at least one selected from: a source device type, a creation time of said  
3 electronic representation, or a network address.

1           9.       The system of claim 7 wherein said meta data index further  
2 comprises at least one selected from: at least one access permission, a direction of transit,  
3 a destination address of a machine on said network, a page size, a page orientation, a page  
4 transformation.

1           10.      The system of claim 9 wherein said page transformation further  
2 comprises at least one selected from: placing at least two pages side-by-side in reduced  
3 form, printing pages on two sides of a page, rotating a page about an angle, reducing a  
4 page, enlarging a page, altering a scanning resolution of a page, or adding a header or a  
5 trailer to a page.

1           11.    The system of claim 7 wherein said meta data is computed from  
2   said document.

1           12.    The system of claim 11 wherein said computed meta data index  
2   further comprises at least one of:

3                   a computed page size, a computed page orientation, or a computed page  
4   transformation.

1           13.    A computer program product for providing unconscious capture  
2   archiving of documents in an automated office environment in which electronic  
3   documents are transferred over a network coupling at least one input device and at least  
4   one document management workstation having at least one database disposed to receive  
5   electronic copies of said documents for archiving, the product comprising:

6                   code for receiving an electronic document image data being transmitted  
7   over the network in response to the electronic document being scanned by said at least  
8   one input device in response to a single user input command;

9                   code for determining at least one meta data index from said electronic  
10   document;

11                  code for causing said image data to be stored in the at least one database  
12   along with said meta data index to perform the unconscious capture archiving, wherein  
13   the aforementioned steps are carried out without further input from the user  
14   notwithstanding the single user input command, and the aforementioned steps capture  
15   electronic document images of documents scanned and transferred over the network; and  
16                  a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes.

1           14.    The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said meta data  
2   index further comprises at least one selected from: a source device type, a creation time of  
3   said electronic representation, or a network address.

1           15.    The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said meta data  
2   index further comprises at least one selected from: at least one access permission, a  
3   direction of transit, a destination address of a machine on said network, a page size, a  
4   page orientation, a page transformation.

1           16.    The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said page  
2   transformation further comprises at least one selected from: placing at least two pages

3 side-by-side in reduced form, printing pages on two sides of a page, rotating a page about  
4 an angle, reducing a page, enlarging a page, altering a scanning resolution of a page, or  
5 adding a header or a trailer to a page.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising:  
2 code for computing said meta data index from said document.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said code for  
2 computing said meta data index from said document further comprises at least one of:  
3 code for computing a page size, code for computing an orientation, or code  
4 for computing a page transformation.

1 19. A digital copier comprising:  
2 a scanning engine, said scanning engine operatively disposed to receive at  
3 least one of a plurality of documents to produce image data;  
4 an image processing unit that processes said image data to correct imaging  
5 errors introduced by said scanning engine;  
6 a printing engine, said printing engine being operatively disposed to  
7 produce hardcopy of said image data;  
8 an image data tap that relays said image data to a storage system to  
9 perform unconscious capture archiving, wherein responsive to receiving from said user at  
10 least one of a plurality of documents and receiving from said user a single user input  
11 command, said single input command entered by said user responsive to a plurality of  
12 options displayed to said user, said scanning engine performs a scanning operation on  
13 said document to form said image data, said image tap relays said image data, along with  
14 at least one meta data index, to said document storage system, and said printing engine  
15 prints a document based on said image data, wherein said scanning engine, image  
16 processing unit, printing engine and image data tap function without further input from  
17 said user notwithstanding said single user input command, wherein said scanning engine,  
18 image processing unit, printing engine and image data tap capture image data of each and  
19 every document inserted into said digital copier.

1 20. An email server for performing unconscious archiving of electronic  
2 documents in a network environment, wherein electronic documents are transferred over  
3 a network coupling at least one client computer and at least one document management

4 workstation having at least one database disposed to receive electronic copies of said  
5 documents for archiving, said server operatively disposed to:  
6 collect an electronic image data of each and every email document  
7 transmitted over the network in response to a single user input command;  
8 cause said image data to be stored in the at least one database to perform  
9 the unconscious capture archiving, wherein the aforementioned steps are carried out  
10 without further input from the user notwithstanding the single user input command, and  
11 the aforementioned steps capture electronic document images of documents transferred  
12 over the network.